



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

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September 23, 1983

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Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and
Mental Health Administration
National Institute on Drug Abuse
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

83-4787

Mr. John N. McMahon
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
McLean, Virginia 20505

Dear Mr. McMahon:

Thank you for your letter of August 31, 1983 to Secretary Heckler concerning the ability of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to respond to the information collection objectives of HUMINT Plan No. 45. I believe that NIDA can be helpful in carrying out this important task in our areas of expertise.

There are several contributions we can make to gathering and processing of information on drug abuse. First, NIDA can serve as a technical resource for the analysis and interpretation of information on the nature, extent and consequences of the use of drugs. In this capacity we can advise on information and issues concerning: consumption of controlled drugs, attitudes towards use, treatment and rehabilitation, the implications of these for policy, and adverse consequences of drugs. Inherent in this statement of capability is a recognition that presently we have very limited access to data from the countries involved and we clearly lack the ability to generate new information on the abuse situation in these countries. However, our expertise and daily experience with the methods by which such information is generated, analyzed, and interpreted constitute a valuable resource for achieving the HUMINT objectives.

Concerning Objective 8, our expertise is clearly relevant, but you should also consider the capability of the Food and Drug Administration insofar as statistics on production and manufacture of licit drugs is concerned. They have had extensive experience with licit narcotics and dangerous drugs.

Concerning Objective 11, we are interested in assisting in the analysis of country information in any way possible. While our experience has not been in consumption of opiates by addicts in processing areas or along illicit supply routes, the approaches and methods by which drug use is assessed in the U.S. and most other countries clearly have sufficient relevance and similarity to warrant use of our resources on this objective.

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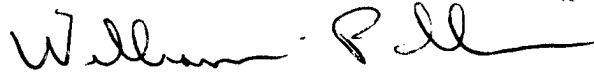
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It would be helpful to us to understand better the possible volume of work (the number of countries and nature of materials involved) as well as the projected timetable for these activities. It will also be necessary to obtain appropriate level security clearances for the staff experts involved in reviewing data and interpreting reports. We have relatively few personnel with secret or top secret clearance at the present time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Pollin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

William Pollin, M.D.
Director
National Institute on Drug Abuse

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